

LAWRENCE WILKERSON, COLONEL, US ARMY (RET), BILL #H 6026, "FOR"

I understand that there is a bill (H 6026) being advanced in the Rhode Island House directed at pulling state pension funds from investments in defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and others. I want to congratulate the creators and proponents of such legislation. Rhode Island just might start a trend, a much-needed trend, to begin to get profane amounts of public money out of the trade of war. America has been engaged in seemingly endless war now for more than two decades, at great harm to our genuine national security. Part of the reason is the inordinate power of defense contractors to tie the public purse strings to their continued good fortune, as they pay their leadership sometimes several hundred times what they pay their "floorworkers" and put much of their profits into the political action committees and other agents of influence of those in the US Congress who vote (or more often, fail to vote) on those wars. Such excess in favor of killing for the state needs to stop. If it doesn't stop, our real security -- economic, financial, infrastructure-wise, healthcare-wise -- is going to be severely impacted. I urge all Rhode Island House members to vote in favor of this legislation.

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